

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14315 01 OF 04 122048Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON NEW FRENCH SECRETARIES
OF STATE

1. SUMMARY: IN NOMINATING 21 SECRETARIES OF STATE
(AGAINST 13 FOR THE LAST MESSMER CABINET), GISCARD
HAS UNDERTAKEN A CAREFULLY DESIGNED JUGGLING ACT.
WHEREAS 9 OF THE 13 SECRETARIES OF STATE IN MESSMER'S
LAST CABINET WERE UDR, ONLY 7 OUT OF 21 NOW BELONG TO
THAT PARTY. SIX OF THE 21 WERE AMONG THE SIGNATORIES
OF THE "APPEAL OF 43" AND THUS MAY BE CONSIDERED AS
HAVING BEEN REWARDED FOR THEIR EARLY ALLEGIANCE TO
GISCARD. NOTEWORTHY IN THE NEW LIST IS THE PRESENCE
OF 2 CENTER UNIONISTS SIGNIFYING A RECOGNITION OF THE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14315 01 OF 04 122048Z

VALUABLE SERVICES RENDERED DURING GISCARD'S CAMPAIGN

BY JACQUES DUHAMEL AND HIS CDP -- AND MAKING UP, IN PART, FOR GISCARD'S FAILURE TO GIVE THE CDP ANY MINISTRIES. PRESENCE OF FORMER UDR SECRETARY-GENERAL RENE TOMASINI MAY REPRESENT A GISCARD ATTEMPT TO SOFTEN THE BLOW CAUSED BY A RELATIVE LACK OF MINISTERIAL OFFICES FOR THE UDR, ALTHOUGH GAULLISTS WERE QUICK TO NOTE THAT NONE OF THE UDR SECRETARIES HAS MUCH OF A POLITICAL BASE. GISCARD SEEMS TO HAVE CAREFULLY BALANCED SOME OF THE MINISTERIAL TECHNOCRATS (SAUVAGNARGUES, FOURCADE, HABY) WITH POLITICAL SECRETARIES OF STATE (DESTREMAU, PONCELET, SOISSON). AVERAGE AGE OF SECRETARIES OF STATE IS 47. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVEN SECRETARIES OF STATE NOT ATTACHED TO ANY MINISTRY.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS: ANDRE BORD, 51, GAULLIST (UDR). A NATIVE OF STRASBOURG, HE IS A RESISTANCE HERO WHO TWICE ESCAPED FROM GERMAN PRISONS DURING WWII (ONCE FROM A GESTAPO CELL), TRADED ON BRILLIANT SERVICE IN THE RESISTANCE TO BECOME A UNR DEPUTY IN 1958 AND HAS SINCE BEEN ACTIVE IN BOTH VETERANS' AFFAIRS, AS MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND WAR VICTIMS IN THE SECOND MESSMER CABINET (JULY 1972 - MARCH 1974), AND IN THE PARLIAMENT OF EUROPE, 1961 - 1966 (FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE). BORD HAS FOUR TIMES SERVED AS SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE INTERIOR MINISTRY WHERE HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A PROTEGE BOTH OF POMPIDOU AND OF COUVE DE MURVILLE.

3. POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES: PIERRE LELONG, 43, CENTER UNIONIST (CDP). A FORMER NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION (ENA) STUDENT (1956-1958), LELONG IS A HIGHLY POLITICIZED TECHNOCRAT WHO HAS MADE HIS CAREER IN THE COUR DES COMPTES AND IN THE VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCES WHICH DEAL WITH AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY EXPORTS. DEPUTY FROM FINISTERE SINCE 1968, HE HAS PUBLISHED A BOOK ON THE AGRICULTURAL MARKET (1970). LELONG, ALONG WITH JACQUES CHIRAC, WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14315 01 OF 04 122048Z

ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL INITIATORS OF THE "DECLARATION OF 43" WHICH AIDED GISCARD'S CAMPAIGN (SEE PARIS 13007 FOR FURTHER DATA ON THE DECLARATION).

4. TRANSPORTATION: MARCEL CAVAILLE, 47, INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN (RI). A TARNAIS, CAVAILLE IS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WITH NO FORMAL TRAINING IN THE FIELD -- HIS FORMAL EDUCATION ENDED WITH HIGH SCHOOL --

WHOSE POLITICAL CAREER HAS BEEN CLOSELY LINKED WITH THAT OF PIERRE BAUDIS, THE DEPUTY/MAYOR OF TOULOUSE. BETWEEN 1962 AND 1967 AND THEN AGAIN BETWEEN 1968 AND 1971, CAVAILLE SERVED AS BAUDIS' REPLACEMENT ("SUPPLEANT") IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; SINCE 1965 HE HAS ALSO BEEN THE VICE-MAYOR OF TOULOUSE. HE BECAME SENATOR FROM THE HAUTEGARONNEIN SEPTEMBER, 1971.

5. CULTURAL AFFAIRS: MICHEL GUY, 47, NO PARTY AFFILIATION. FLOWER-RAISER AND FOUNDER OF THE FALL FESTIVAL OF PARIS, HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF POMPIDOU

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14315 02 OF 04 122145Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 04 PARIS 14315

WHO, IT IS RUMORED, CONSIDERED HIM BOTH AS A POSSIBLE DIRECTOR OF THE PARIS OPERA AND AS A POSSIBLE MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS. GUY IS THE FOREMOST FRENCH IMPRESSARIO OF AMERICAN DANCE THEATER AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENTING BOTH THE MERCE CUNNINGHAM AND ALVIN AILEY DANCERS TO THE FRENCH.

6. FOREIGN TRADE: NORBERT SEGARD, 51, UDR. A PHYSICIST AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEER, SEGARD HAS MADE HIS CAREER AS A PROFESSOR WHO HAS LONG HAD ADMINISTRATIVE AMBITIONS. HE PARLAYED A DIRECTORSHIP OF THE HIGH INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS OF THE NORTH (1956) AND TWO OTHER INSTITUTE DIRECTORSHIPS INTO A DEANSHIP OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14315 02 OF 04 122145Z

FREE SCIENCE FACULTY OF LILLE, 1963, AND INTO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE FEDERATION OF ECOLES SUPERIEURES FOR ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT. ELECTED UDR DEPUTY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NORD IN 1973, HE HOLDS A SEAT ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UDR WHERE HE REPRESENTS THE GROUP FORMED AROUND MARIE-MADELEINE DIENESCH, ONE OF POMPIDOU'S GREY EMINENCES. SINCE 1962 SEGARD HAS BEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SOCIETY FOR QUALITY CONTROL.

7. UNIVERSITIES: JEAN-PIERRE SOISSON, 39, RI. SOISSON, DEPUTY-MAYOR FROM AUXERRE (YONNE) AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY, IS AN ENA-TRAINED TECHNOCRAT WHOSE CAREER HAS BEEN SPENT IN THE COUR DES COMPTES AND IN SEVERAL TECHNICAL COUNSELOR POSITIONS IN THE FIFTH REPUBLIC. A COMING POLITICAL POWER (SOISSON WAS ONE OF ONLY 50 DEPUTIES ELECTED ON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 1973 ELECTIONS), HE WAS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1972 AND IS WELL-KNOWN TO SEVERAL EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE PERSONABLE AND INTERESTED IN US POLICY INITIATIVES.

8. OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES: OLIVIER STIRN, 38, UDR. OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DEPUTY-MAYOR FROM VIRE (CALVADOS), STIRN IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE HARDEST-WORKING AND MOST POLITICALLY ASTUTE YOUNG GAULLISTS. HE HELD STAFF POSITIONS IN A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES BEFORE BEING ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1968. RE-ELECTED IN 1973, HE TURUED HIS SEAT OVER TO "SUPPLEANT" TO ASSUME HIS SUB-CABINET POST. LONG AN IMPORTANT EMBASSY CONTACT, STIRN WAS SEVERAL TIMES OFFERED A LEADER GRANT BUT HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT DUE TO THE PRESS OF PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

9. FOUR SECRETARIES OF STATE ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS: RENE TOMASINI, 55, UDR. FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UDR (JANUARY 1971 - AUGUST 1972), TOMASINI BEGAN HIS CAREER AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO MICHEL DEBRE WHEN DEBRE WAS HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14315 02 OF 04 122145Z

COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC IN ANGERS (1944). ELECTED A DEPUTY FROM THE EURE IN 1968 AND 1973, TOMASINI HAS ACTIVELY PURSUED INTERESTS IN ECOLOGY (HE IS MAYOR OF A SMALL RESORT TOWN IN THE EURE, LES ANDELYS) AND AVIATION -- HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STUDY GROUP ON CIVIL AVIATION. TOMASINI IS CONSIDERED A HARD-LINE GAULLIST WITH A WIDE NETWORK OF FRIENDS AND CONTACTS WHICH BESPEAKS HIS 30 YEARS' SERVICE AS A VASSAL TO THE GAULLIST BARONS.

10. PUBLIC FUNCTIONS: ROGER POUDONSON, 51, CENTER DEMOCRAT (CD). AN ADVERTISING MAN, HE HAS BEEN A SENATOR FROM THE PAS-DE-CALAIS, A SOCIALIST DEPARTMENT, SINCE 1965. SINCE 1971 POUDONSON HAS BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRIST UNION OF PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS IN THE SENATE.

11. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: PAUL GRANET, 43, UDR. ENA-TRAINED (1958 - 1960), GRANET BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR IN LAOS (1955). HE SERVED AS CHEF DE CABINET TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE SURETE NATIONALE (1962) AND THEN AS A CHARGE DE MISSION IN THE CABINET OF ROGER FREY, THEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR (1964). RETURNING TO PRIVATE LIFE (1964 - 1967), GRANET WAS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF A REAL-ESTATE COMPANY, AND THEN WAS ELECTED (1967) DEPUTY FROM THE AUBE. HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL DISCIPLE OF EDGAR FAURE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE DIRECTING COMMITTEE OF FAURE'S COMMITTEE FOR A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14315 03 OF 04 122047Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 03 OF 04 PARIS 14315

12. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN: ANDRE ROSSI, 53, REFORMER. ROSSI HAS MADE A POLITICAL CAREER OUT OF THE VAGARIES OF RENE MAYER'S ASCENT, SERVING AS MAYER'S CHEF DE CABINET WHEN MAYER WAS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MINISTER OF FINANCES AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (1953), AND FINALLY, FOLLOWING MAYER WHEN THE LATTER BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF THE COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. MADE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL SERVICE IN 1957, ROSSI WAS ELECTED REFORMIST DEPUTY FROM THE AISNE IN 1958 AND HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED IN ALL ENSUING PARLIAMENTARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14315 03 OF 04 122047Z

ELECTIONS. IN 1969 HE WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND HAS BEEN, SINCE MARCH 1973, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REFORMERS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WE UNDERSTAND ROSSI WILL BE THE SOLE SECRETARY OF

STATE TO ATTEND REGULARLY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETINGS.

13. TEN SECRETARIES OF STATE ATTACHED TO MINISTRIES: TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE (FOR PENAL CONDITIONS): MADAME HELENE DORLHAC DE BORNE, 38, RI. THE DAUGHTER AND WIFE OF PHYSICIANS, MADAME DORLHAC DE BORNE HAS PRACTICED MEDICINE SEVEN YEARS IN NIMES, SPECIALIZING IN EXAMINING AND QUALIFYING INJURED WORKERS APPLYING FOR SOCIAL BENEFITS. SHE IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE RI FEDERATION IN HER HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE GARD.

14. TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: BERNARD DESTREMAU, 57, RI. A CAREER DIPLOMAT FROM 1945 TO 1965, DESTREMAU SERVED IN BELGIUM, EGYPT, SOUTH AFRICA, AND IN THE UNITED NATIONS; FROM 1947 TO 1949 HE WORKED ON THE QUAI D'ORSAY'S AMERICAN DESK. DESTREMAU LEFT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ENTER POLITICS; IN 1967 HE WAS ELECTED DEPUTY FROM YVELINES AND WAS RE-ELECTED IN 1973. DESTREMAU IS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTS THE ASSEMBLY IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION. (HE VISITED THE US IN MARCH 1974 AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE.) A LONG-TIME TENNIS CHAMPION, HE REPRESENTED FRANCE IN THE DAVIS CUP FROM 1936 TO 1953.

15. TO THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCES (FOR THE BUDGET): CHRISTIAN PONCELET, 46, UDR. THE OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC FUNCTIONS, PONCELET WAS TEN YEARS A DEPUTY FROM THE VOSGES BEFORE ENTERING THE MESSMER GOVERNMENT IN 1973 AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR. A MECHANIC'S SON, SELF-MADE MAN AND LONG-TIME CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT (CFTC) ACTIVIST, PONCELET IS CONSIDERED A STALWART GAULLIST COMMITTED TO SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT. HE HAS BEEN UDR ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL SINCE 1971.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14315 03 OF 04 122047Z

16. TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION): MADAME ANNIE LESUR, 48, CD. MADAME LESUR IS A PHYSICIAN AND CHIEF OF THE ANAESTHESIA-RESUSCITATION UNIT OF THE PRISON HOSPITAL AT FRESNES. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTER DEMOCRATS, SHE UNSUCCESSFULLY RAN IN 1973 FOR AN ASSEMBLY SEAT IN HAUTS-DE-SEINE AGAINST PIERRE MAZEAUD (UDR), WHO IRONICALLY NOW JOINS HER IN THE CHIRAC GOVERNMENT.

17. TO THE MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT (FOR HOUSING):

JACQUES BARROT, 37, CDP. A LAWYER AND FORMER SEMINARIAN, BARROT WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM HAUTE-LOIRE IN 1967 TO SUCCEED HIS LATE FATHER. HE BOLTED THE CENTER DEMOCRATS IN 1969 TO JOIN JACQUES DUHAMEL AND JOSEPH FONTANET IN ESTABLISHING THE CDP. A PASSIONATE EUROPEAN, HE WAS VERY CRITICAL OF JOBERT'S OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. HE VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN 1970 WITH A DELEGATION OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS AND AGAIN IN 1973 AS A LEADER GRANTEE.

18. TO THE MINISTER FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE (FOR THE ENVIRONMENT): GABRIEL PERRONET, 54, RADICAL. A VETERINARIAN AND DEPUTY FROM VICHY, PERONNET IS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE RADICAL PARTY AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S REFORMATEUR GROUP. ONE OF SERVAN-SCHREIBER'S ASSOCIATES, PERONNET HAS BEEN A CLOSE EMBASSY CONTACT FOR THIRTEEN YEARS. HE RECEIVED A LEADER GRANT IN 1972.

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14315 04 OF 04 122052Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 04 OF 04 PARIS 14315

19. TO THE MINISTER FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE (FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS)): PIERRE MAZEAUD, 44, UDR. MAZEAUD KEEPS THE SAME POST (FORMERLY UNDER THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION) HE HAS OCCUPIED SINCE APRIL, 1973. A FORMER DEPUTY FROM HAUTS-DE-SEINE (WHERE HE DEFEATED MADAME LESUR), MAZEAUD IS AN AVID ALPINIST WHO HAS PUBLISHED A HIGHLY-REGARDED AND WIDELY-TRANSLATED BOOK ON HIS CLIMBING EXPERIENCES.

20. TO THE MINISTER FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE (FOR TOURISM): GERARD DUCRAY, 32, RI. THE BOY-WONDER OF RI POLITICS, DUCRAY WAS ELECTED DEPUTY FROM VILLEFRANCHE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14315 04 OF 04 122052Z

(RHONE) IN THE MAJORITY LANDSLIDE OF 1968 AND RE-ELECTED IN 1973. THE YOUNGEST DEPUTY AT THE TIME OF HIS ELECTION, HE NOW BECOMES CHIRAC'S YOUNGEST SECRETARY OF STATE. HE TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS POLITICAL THINKING SINCE 1968 HAD EVOLVED FROM "CENTER-RIGHT" TO "CENTER-LEFT . . . IN A GISCARDIAN FRAMEWORK" -- THAT IS, FAVORING GOVERNMENT ASSUMPTION OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH LITTLE OR NO DEFICIT SPENDING. HE IS A PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN COMMITTEE OF YOUNG JURISTS AND IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY -- LARGELY, HE ONCE CONFESSED, OUT OF FEAR OF GERMANY.

21. TO THE MINISTER OF LABOR (FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS): ANDRE POSTEL-VINAY, 63, NO PARTY AFFILIATION. POSTEL-VINAY'S APPOINTMENT CAPS A LONG CAREER CONCERNED WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD AND WITH IMPROVING SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR FRANCE'S FOUR MILLION IMMIGRANT WORKERS. AN INSPECTOR OF FINANCES SINCE 1938, POSTEL-VINAY WAS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK FOR OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION (1944 - 1973); SINCE 1964 HE HAS HEADED THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE TRAINING OF AFRICAN AND MALAGASY WORKERS. HIS NEW POST GIVES HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH HIS THREE-FOLD PLAN FOR FRENCH IMMIGRANT LABOR: JOB TRAINING, STRICT IMMIGRATION CONTROL, AND FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LABOR-SURPLUS COUNTRIES.

22. TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (FOR SOCIAL ACTION):
RENE LENOIR, 47, NO PARTY AFFILIATION. LENOIR HAS
SERVED SINCE 1970 AS DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION (WELFARE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. HE WILL CONTINUE TO
EXERCISE THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES WITH INCREASED RANK
AND PRESTIGE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. UNDER HIS
STEWARDSHIP, GOVERNMENT HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE NEEDY
INCREASED TWO AND A HALF TIMES. LENOIR, A NATIVE OF
ALGERIA, IS A FORMER NORTH AFRICAN COLONIAL ADMINISTRA-
TOR; IN 1962-63 HE WORKED IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY OF
THE MALAGASY REPUBLIC. FROM 1969 TO 1970 HE WAS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CABINET OF DEFENSE MINISTER
MICHEL DEBRE.
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PAGE 03 PARIS 14315 04 OF 04 122052Z

23. COMMENT: A SURPRISE WAS THE ABSENCE OF A SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR WOMENS' AFFAIRS, EVEN THOUGH GISCARD HAD
PROMISED DURING THE CAMPAIGN TO CREATE SUCH A POST.
APPARENTLY MADAME FRANCOISE GIROUD, DIRECTOR OF
L'EXPRESS, WAS OFFERED THE POST BUT FINALLY
REFUSED IT. POST MAY BE CREATED LATER IN VIEW OF
GISCARD'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE. A NEW FIFTH REPUBLIC
RECORD FOR SENATE PARTICIPATION IN A GOVERNMENT WAS
ALSO SET WITH THE NAMING OF THREE SENATORS TO THE
GISCARD TEAM (MINDEF SOUFFLET, SECRETARIES CAVAILLE
AND POUDONSON).
IRWIN

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